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(54) Title: NEAR INFRARED FLUORESCENT CONTRAST AGENT AND METHOD FOR FLUORESCENCE IMAGING

(57) Abstract: A near infrared fluorescent contrast agent which is excellent in permeability in a living tissue and enables specific imaging of tumor and/or blood vessel, comprising a compound represented by formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, and R<sup>8</sup> represent a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkyl group or the like; R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, and R<sup>12</sup> represent a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, an aryl group or the like; X<sup>1</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> represent a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>15</sub> alkyl group or an aryl group and X<sup>1</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> in total have 0 to 4 carboxyl groups; m<sup>1</sup>, m<sup>2</sup>, and m<sup>3</sup> represents 0 or 1; L<sup>1</sup> to L<sup>7</sup> independently represent a methine group; M<sup>n</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a metal, or a quaternary ammonium salt; and n represents an integer of 1 to 7 necessary for neutralizing charge.

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